

APPENDIX A

NOXIOUS WEED PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLAN AND NOXIOUS WEED SURVEY

SPRING VALLEY EXPLORATION PROJECTS PERSHING COUNTY, NEVADA

NOXIOUS WEED PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLAN

October 3, 2006



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**SPRING VALLEY EXPLORATION PROJECTS
PERSHING COUNTY, NEVADA**

**NOXIOUS WEED
PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLAN**

October 3, 2006

Submitted by

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Submitted to

Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Blvd.
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**SPRING VALLEY EXPLORATION PROJECTS
PERSHING COUNTY, NEVADA**

**NOXIOUS WEED
PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLAN**

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1 INTRODUCTION

Enviroscientists, Inc. (Enviroscientists) was retained by MGC Resources, Inc. (MGC) to complete a Noxious Weed Prevention and Control Plan (Plan) for the Spring Valley Exploration Project in Pershing County, Nevada (Figure 1). The Spring Valley Exploration Project is located just east of the Humboldt Range and approximately 20 miles northeast of Lovelock, Nevada, on lands administered by the Winnemucca Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Operation for the Spring Valley Exploration Project is expected to begin after the proposed project is accepted.

For the purposes of this Plan, the term “noxious weed” is defined by the BLM as "a plant that interferes with management objectives for a given area of land at a given point in time" (BLM 1996). The BLM's Nevada State Office maintains a "Nevada Noxious Weed List." The BLM Nevada strategy for noxious weed management is to "prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds through local and regional cooperative efforts... to ensure maintenance and restoration of healthy ecosystems on BLM-managed lands. Noxious weed control would be based on... prevention, education, detection, and quick control of small infestations" (BLM 1997).

The following laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and agreements pertain to noxious weeds:

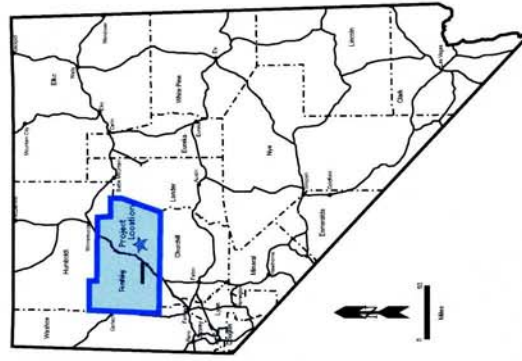
- Executive Order 11312 (Prevention and Control of Invasive Species): Directs all federal agencies to prevent and control the spread of invasive species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. The order also established a national Invasive Species Council and Invasive Species Advisory Committee;
- Federal Noxious and Invasive Weed Laws: These laws include the Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act, Lacey Act (as amended), Federal Plant Pest Act, Federal Noxious Weed Act (as amended), Federal Halogeton Control Act, and the Carlson-Foley Act. These laws contain directives for establishing and implementing noxious weed management programs at the federal level;
- BLM Manuals and Partners Against Weeds Action Plan: BLM Manual 9015 sets requirements that all ground disturbing projects and any projects that alter plant communities be assessed to determine the risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds. If the risk is moderate or higher, a management program needs to be established. The Partners Against Weeds Action Plan (BLM 1996) states "All NEPA documents must include an analysis of the potential for weed spread and establishment as an environmental consequence of proposed actions. Measures and stipulations to minimize or avoid the spread of weeds must be provided." BLM Manuals 9011 and 9014 and Departmental Manuals 517 and 609 provide guidance and procedures for implementing integrated pest management programs;
- BLM May 1991 Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States; and

Spring Valley Exploration general location map shows a boundary outline of the Spring Valley Exploration Project overlaying the 1954 Union 15' USGS Topographic Map base map. The Project is located in Spring Valley at elevations ranging between 5,400 and 6,400 feet above mean sea level in Pershing County, Nevada, approximately 20 miles northeast of Lovelock.

Project Boundary



Lovelock via I80
Greene Exit



MGC Resources, Inc.
Spring Valley Exploration Project



Project Boundary

Base Map: 1954 Unionville 15' USGS
Topographic Map

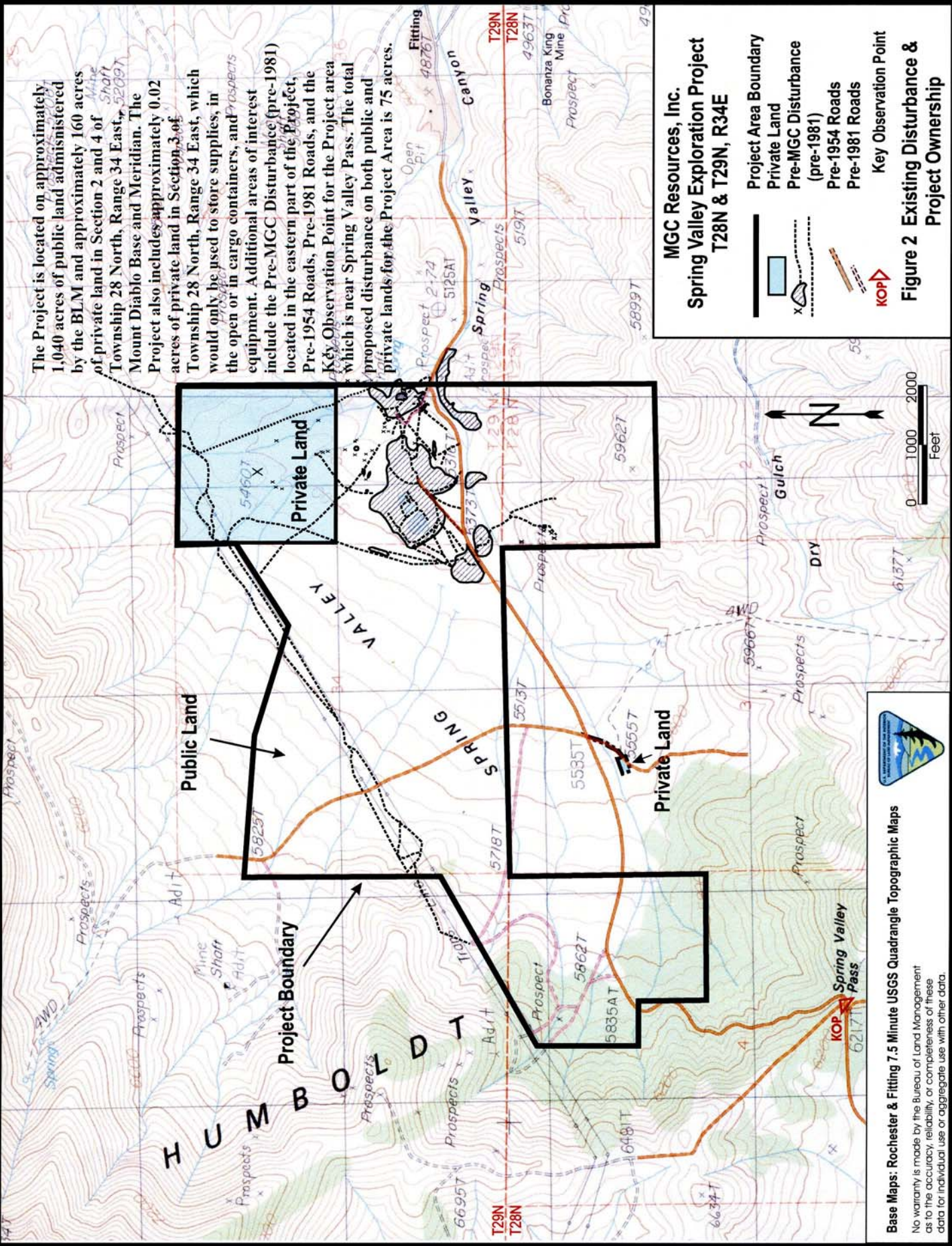
One Mile



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Figure 1: General Location and Access

The Project is located on approximately 1,040 acres of public land administered by the BLM and approximately 160 acres of private land in Section 2 and 4 of Township 28 North, Range 34 East, T28N R34E. The Project also includes approximately 0.02 acres of private land in Section 3 of Township 28 North, Range 34 East, which would only be used to store supplies, in the open or in cargo containers, and the equipment. Additional areas of interest include the Pre-MGC Disturbance (pre-1981) located in the eastern part of the Project, Pre-1954 Roads, Pre-1981 Roads, and the Key Observation Point for the Project area which is near Spring Valley Pass. The total proposed disturbance on both public and private lands for the Project Area is 75 acres.



MGC Resources, Inc. Spring Valley Exploration Project T28N & T29N, R34E

- Project Area Boundary
- Private Land
- Pre-MGC Disturbance (pre-1981)
- Pre-1954 Roads
- Pre-1981 Roads
- Key Observation Point

Figure 2 Existing Disturbance & Project Ownership



Base Maps: Rochester & Fitting 7.5 Minute USGS Quadrangle Topographic Maps

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

- Nevada Revised Statutes and Administrative Code: Chapter 555 addresses the designation and control of noxious weeds and their removal from the public domain. The Nevada Department of Agriculture has jurisdiction, management, and enforcement of the noxious weed law and maintains the state's noxious weed list.

Weed species rapidly invade disturbed areas and initially hinder the establishment of more desirable perennial grasses and forbs by out-competing them for moisture during the initial years following disturbance or seeding. Noxious weeds are typically very aggressive and have the ability to dominate sites with dramatic impacts to native plant communities, as well as decreasing the available amount of forage for livestock and wildlife.

The mining exploration activities that are components of the Spring Valley Exploration Projects require construction of roads, pads, berms, and water diversions. These activities all require heavy equipment, which can transport noxious weed seeds or vegetative matter. Construction activities create disturbed sites upon which noxious weeds can become established. This Plan will identify weed prevention practices that mitigate the risks of weed introduction and spread within the Spring Valley Exploration Project Area.

A noxious weed survey was conducted on September 5, 2006 (Enviroscientists, Inc. 2006). The survey focused on areas of recent disturbance and locations where standing or running water was present. Populations of noxious weeds were recorded with Geographic Positioning System (GPS) points. Two species of noxious weeds, Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) and tamarisk (*Tamarisk* sp.), were encountered in the survey area. Russian knapweed was located in several locations within the Project Area that had been disturbed prior to MGC's exploration project. Although the Russian knapweed in the Project Area had been browsed by livestock, flowers were present and the plant could be identified. Russian knapweed was present on approximately 1.29 acres of the Project Area. Tamarisk occurrences were limited to locations where water was present and at the four constructed ponds utilized for placer mining prior to MGC's exploration project. A copy of the report and occurrence map is included in Appendix A.

1.1 Project Description

The Spring Valley Exploration Project (Project) is located in Spring Valley at elevations ranging between 5,400 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to 6,400 feet amsl in Pershing County, Nevada, approximately 20 miles northeast of Lovelock (Figure 1). The Project is located on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Winnemucca Field Office (BLM) and private land in Sections 34 and 35, Township 29 North, Range 34 East (T29N, R34E) and Sections 2 and 4, T28N, R34E, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian (MDB&M) (Project Area) (Figure 2). The Project also includes approximately 0.02 acre of private land in Section 3, T28N, R34E, which would only be used to store supplies, in the open or in cargo containers, and equipment (Figure 2). The total proposed disturbance on public and private lands for the Project Area consists of 75 acres.

MGC Resources, Inc. (MGC) proposes to expand Notice-level (NVN-078048) mineral exploration activities on public and private land, which included construction of drill sites, roads, overland travel, and drilling (Proposed Action). The combined acres of disturbance on BLM-administered land and private land is greater than five acres; therefore, a Plan of Operations/Revised Permit for Reclamation (Plan) (Record Number NVN-081071/ Reclamation Permit No. 258) has been

submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Regulation and Reclamation (BMRR) and the BLM.

Table 1 outlines the total acreage of existing and proposed surface disturbance, by type of disturbance, for the Project. There is a total of 6.63 acres of disturbance on private land. The 4.85 acres of existing Notice-level disturbance is on land administered by the BLM and the 6.63 acres on private land is included in the proposed total disturbance of 75 acres. The Proposed Action would be implemented in a phased manner. Exploration would occur in phases that would be outlined by work plans and maps for activities that could occur anywhere within the Project Area. These work plans would be submitted to the BLM and BMRR for processing prior to commencement of activities. The maps would show the location of the planned surface disturbance to ensure that all eligible and unevaluated cultural resources are avoided. The first phase and the subsequent phases of exploration are outlined in Table 1.

Phase I of the Plan would create 12.43 acres of surface disturbance within the Project Area shown in Figure 2. The remaining 51.09 acres would be implemented in subsequent phases over the next ten years. Phase I disturbance has been submitted to the BLM; however, due to the confidential nature of the information, the drill sites and roads are not shown on Figure 2.

The amount of road and pad disturbance in the Project Area may change based on results obtained from the phased exploration work; however, the total amount of disturbance would not exceed the specified surface disturbance limit in each Project Area. Since these are exploration projects, MGC is unable to predict, at this time, the exact locations of exploration roads, drill sites, trenches, and bulk sample locations for all phases of exploration in the Project Area. Prior to implementation of subsequent phases, MGC would provide to the BLM information that identifies the location of the planned surface disturbance under each subsequent phase of exploration in the Project Area prior to implementing the next phase of exploration.

In addition to the work plans, on a yearly basis, on or before April 15th, MGC would also submit to the BLM and BMRR summary of exploration activities for the previous year, and a reclamation cost estimate for existing surface disturbance to ensure consistency with the current bond amount. MGC plans to bond for the additional 51.09 acres in subsequent phases based on activities and drilling results.

1.2 Vegetation of the Project Area

The Project Area is located in the Intermountain Region in the Central Great Basin Section of the Great Basin Division. The Project Area is located just east of the Humboldt Range, a narrow, steep range with high relief. The 1999 Rochester fire in the Project Area eliminated all of the vegetation in the vicinity. The BLM seeded the Project Area and vicinity in 1999 with a seed mix shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Acreage of Existing and Proposed Project Disturbance

Exploration Activity	Land Status	Surface Disturbance (acres)			
		Existing Disturbance	Proposed Phase I	Proposed Subsequent Phases	Total Disturbance
Constructed Roads	Public	0.97	2.17	3.27	6.41
	Private	0.14	0.17	3.04	3.35
Overland Travel	Public	0.95	3.38	14.60	18.93
	Private	3.18	2.57	10.43	16.18
Constructed Drill Sites (includes sumps and spoils)	Public	1.31	0.22	2.90	4.43
	Private	0.82	0.11	1.85	2.78
Overland Drill Sites (includes sumps and spoils)	Public	1.62	1.64	10.50	13.76
	Private	2.47	2.17	4.16	8.80
Trenching and Bulk Sampling	Public	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.34
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fenced Supply Area	Private	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Total		11.48	12.43	51.09	75.00
Private		6.63	5.02	19.48	31.13
Public		4.85	7.41	31.61	43.87

Table 2: Seed Mix Used to Seed the Project Area after the 1999 Rochester Fire

Species Name		Application Rate (lbs ¹ /acre)
Common Name	Scientific Name	
Forage kochia	<i>Kochia prostrata</i>	0.35
Fourwing saltbush	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	1.00
Hycrest crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	1.70
Ladak alfalfa	<i>Medicago falcata</i> cv. <i>Ladak</i>	0.90
Lewis blue flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	0.20
Secar bluebunch wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> ssp. <i>spicata</i>	0.85
Sherman big bluegrass	<i>Poa secunda</i>	0.85
Wyoming big sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>wyomingensis</i>	0.10
Total		5.95

¹Pure live seed

2 PREVENTION AND CONTROL PRACTICES

The practices that will be implemented for prevention and control of noxious weeds in the Project Area are the following:

Noxious Weed Control

1. To reduce the risk of spreading noxious weed infestations, infested areas will be avoided during proposed activities.
2. The BLM and MGC will cooperate to inventory and monitor noxious weeds within areas of disturbance related to exploration activities within the Project Area. Noxious weed infestations within the Project Area resulting from MGC's ground disturbing activities will be promptly reported to the BLM. The extent of the infestation will be recorded and plotted on a map.
3. MGC will treat any noxious weed infestations that result from ground disturbing activities within the Project Area for at least a three-year period following the completion of the projects. Treatments will be applied and recorded per BLM policy. The BLM and MGC will cooperate to monitor the effectiveness of treatments on noxious weeds.

Equipment and Vehicles

1. Staging areas will be located outside of noxious weed infestations.
2. All heavy equipment (e.g. drills, water truck/tenders, dozers, and excavators) will be washed and inspected before entering BLM lands. Inspection and cleaning will concentrate on the undercarriage, with special emphasis on axles, frame, cross-members, motor mounts, underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. This practice will not apply to service vehicles traveling frequently in and out of the Project Area that will remain on the roadway.

Road Construction

1. Roadside vegetation will be retained to the maximum extent possible when constructing, reconstructing, or maintaining exploration and mining roads.
2. All road drainage structures within 100 feet (horizontally) of a well-defined stream channel will have a silt trap, slope stabilization matting, geo-textile, hydro-mulch, dry straw mulch (certified weed-free straw), straw bales, sumps, or other sediment restricting devices in place.

Reclamation

1. Soil disturbance will be minimized to the extent practical, consistent with project objectives. Topsoil will be stockpiled and used in reclamation. The use of imported topsoil and non-organic materials will be avoided.
2. Disturbed sites will be revegetated as soon as possible when exploration work is completed. Revegetation may include topsoil replacement, planting, seeding, fertilization, liming, and weed-free mulching as necessary.
3. The reclamation seed mixture will contain at least four species of native perennial grasses and native perennial forbs. It will include fast, early-growing species as well as species that will become established on-site to protect soils and create long-term watershed stability.
4. The seed mixture will be certified pure live seed and weed free. Each individual lot shall be tested by a certified seed laboratory against the All State Noxious Weed List and documented, or purchased as blue tag certified seed. Straw or hay bales used for erosion control will also be certified as weed free.
5. Noxious weed species will not be counted towards vegetative ground cover for meeting the revegetation bond release criteria. All noxious weed occurrences will be controlled prior to final bond release.

3 REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 1996. *Partners Against Weeds: An Action Plan for the Bureau of Land Management*. Montana State Office, Billings, Montana.

_____. 1997. Nevada Noxious Weed Management Strategy. Information Bulletin No. NV 97-137. Nevada State Office, Reno, Nevada.

Cronquist, A., A. H. Holmgren, N. H. Holmgren, and J. L. Reveal. 1972. *Intermountain Flora*, Vol. 1. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. 270 pgs.

Appendix A



Enviroscientists, Inc.

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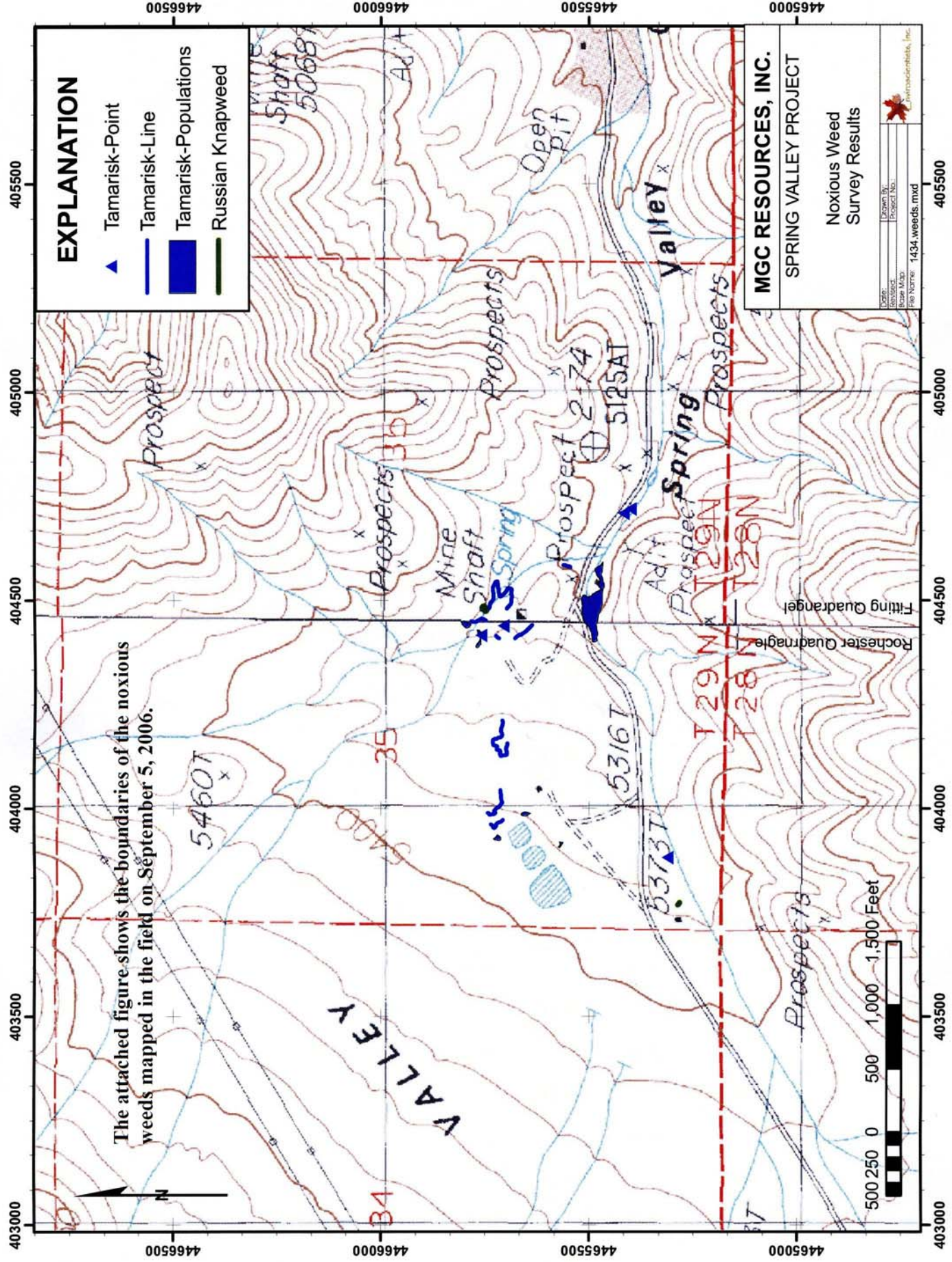
MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Alan Branham
FROM: Michele L. Lefebvre
DATE: September 20, 2006
SUBJECT: Results for the Spring Valley Noxious Weed Survey

Enviroscientists, Inc. (Enviroscientists) completed a noxious weed survey for MGC Resources, Inc. (MGC) at the Spring Valley Exploration Project (Project) area on September 5, 2006. The Project is located on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Winnemucca Field Office (BLM) and private land in Sections 34 and 35, Township 29 North, Range 34 East (T29N, R34E) and Section 2 and 4, T28N, R34E, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian (MDB&M); all in Pershing County, Nevada. This memo summarizes the results of the noxious weed survey.

The Project area was surveyed by foot and vehicle for noxious weeds by a two-person team on September 5, 2006. According to the Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 555.005, "noxious weed" refers to any species of plant which is, or is likely to be, detrimental or destructive and difficult to control or eradicate. The survey focused on areas of recent disturbance and locations where standing or running water was present. Populations of noxious weeds were recorded with Geographic Positioning System (GPS) points. The boundaries of the populations were delineated to the extent possible (see attached figure).

Two species of noxious weeds, Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) and tamarisk (*Tamarisk* sp.), were encountered in the survey (see attached figure). Russian knapweed was located in several locations within the Project area that had been disturbed prior to MGC's exploration project. Although the Russian knapweed in the Project area had been browsed by livestock, flowers were present and the plant could be identified. Russian knapweed was present on approximately 1.29 acres of the Project area. Tamarisk occurrences were limited to locations where water was present and the four constructed ponds utilized for placer mining prior to MGC's exploration project.



The attached figure shows the boundaries of the noxious weeds mapped in the field on September 5, 2006.

EXPLANATION

- Tamarisk-Point
- Tamarisk-Line
- Tamarisk-Populations
- Russian Knapweed

MGC RESOURCES, INC.

SPRING VALLEY PROJECT

Noxious Weed
Survey Results

DATE	4/20/06
PROJECT	1434 weeds.mxd
PROJECT NO.	
PROJECT NAME	
PROJECT LOCATION	



APPENDIX B

PROJECT AREA WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Table 1. Surface Water Quality for the Project Area

Parameter	MCL Standard s	Spring			Pond		
		1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006
Alkalinity, total (as CaC) ₃	-	180	174	190	225	260	Dry
Aluminum	0.05 - 0.2	0.41	0.38	0.09	0.05	0.07	
Antimony	0.146	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	
Arsenic	0.01	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	0.003	0.003	
Barium	2	12	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	
Beryllium	0.004	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	
Boron	-	14	0.16	0.14	0.42	0.52	
Cadmium	0.005	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	
Calcium	-	59	59	63	120	120	
Chloride	250 - 400	46	50	50	190	220	
Chromium	0.1	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	
Copper	1.3	<0.002	0.005	<0.002	<0.002	0.012	
Cyanide, WAD	0.2	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	
Fluoride	2 - 4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	
Iron	0.3 - 0.6	0.46	0.44	0.11	<0.05	0.1	
Lead	0.015	<0.002	<0.004	<0.002	<0.002	<0.004	
Magnesium	125 - 150	11	11	11	25	27	
Manganese	0.05 - 0.10	0.032	0.048	0.012	0.01	0.022	
Mercury	0.002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	
Nickel	0.1	<0.002	<0.004	<0.002	<0.002	0.008	
Nitrate (NO ₃ + NO ₂ as N)	10	0.83	0.54	0.64	0.84	0.13	
pH	6.5 - 8.5	8.13	8.39	8.15	8.29	8.2	
Potassium	-	1.6	1.7	1.4	2.9	4.3	
Selenium	0.05	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	
Silver	0.1	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	
Sodium	-	37	35	38	120	130	
Sulfate	250 - 500	33	36	37	150	140	
Thallium	0.002	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	500 - 1000	320	330	330	790	850	
Zinc	5	0.01	0.01	0.04	<0.01	0.01	

All units mg/L except pH (standard units).

Table 2. Ground Water Quality for the Project Area

Parameter	MCL Standards	Well #1				Pipe (Well #2)				Below Adit		
		4 th Quarter 2005	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	4 th Quarter 2005	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006	1 st Quarter 2006	2 nd Quarter 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006
Alkalinity, total (as CaC ₃)	-	180	180	170	180	180	180	174	190	255	230	246
Aluminum	0.05 - 0.2	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	0.06	0.92	0.2	0.07	1.9	1.6
Antimony	0.146	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002
Arsenic	0.01	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	0.003	0.006	0.01
Barium	2	0.096	0.094	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.15	0.16
Beryllium	0.004	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002
Boron	-	0.14	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.42	0.44	0.51
Cadmium	0.005	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002
Calcium	-	55	52	54	55	64	59	58	63	120	120	130
Chloride	250 - 400	34	35	37	37	46	47	50	50	190	200	250
Chromium	0.1	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	0.003	<0.002	<0.002	0.003	0.006
Copper	1.3	0.002	<0.002	0.003	<0.002	0.003	<0.002	0.005	0.002	<0.002	0.013	0.005
Cyanide, WAD	0.2	Not Analyzed	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	Not Analyzed	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005
Fluoride	2 - 4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Iron	0.3 - 0.6	<0.05	<0.05	0.05	<0.05	0.1	<0.05	1	0.19	0.05	2.1	1.6
Lead	0.015	<0.002	<0.002	<0.004	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.004	<0.002	<0.002	0.009	0.007
Magnesium	125 - 150	10	9.4	9.9	9.8	12	11	11	11	25	26	28
Manganese	0.05 - 0.10	<0.002	0.003	0.015	<0.002	0.007	0.005	0.061	0.016	0.01	0.25	0.23
Mercury	0.002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
Nickel	0.1	<0.002	<0.002	<0.004	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	0.004	<0.002	<0.002	0.01	0.004
Nitrate (NO ₃ + NO ₂ as N)	10	0.76	0.80	0.77	0.79	0.75	0.65	0.48	0.64	0.82	0.22	0.2
pH	6.5 - 8.5	7.5	7.8	8.23	7.85	8.19	8.19	8.44	8.2	8.3	8.25	8.3
Potassium	-	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.9	5.0	5.3
Selenium	0.05	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Silver	0.1	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002
Sodium	-	36	33	34	34	40	37	36	38	120	110	130
Sulfate	250 - 500	26	26	27	28	35	34	36	37	150	130	150
Thallium	0.002	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	500 - 1000	290	290	570	290	330	330	310	330	850	780	890
Zinc	5	<0.01	<0.01	0.01	0.03	<0.01	<0.01	0.01	0.03	<0.01	0.03	0.04

All units mg/L except pH (standard units).

APPENDIX C

NEVADA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM LETTER



Nevada Natural Heritage Program

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Richard H. Bryan Building



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21 December 2005

Michele L. Lefebvre
Enviroscientists, Inc.
4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite C-129
Reno, NV 89502

RE: Data request received 16 December 2005

Dear Ms. Lefebvre:

We are pleased to provide the information you requested on endangered, threatened, candidate, and/or At Risk plant and animal taxa recorded within or near the Spring Valley Exploration Project area. We searched our database and maps for the following a five kilometer radius around:


Township 29N Range 34E Sections 34 and 35

There are no At Risk taxa recorded within the given area. However, please be aware that habitat may also be available for the windloving buckwheat, *Eriogonum anemophilum*, a Nevada Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sensitive Species, and the Goodrich biscuitroot, *Cymopterus goodrichii*, a Nevada BLM Sensitive Species. We do not have complete data on various raptors that may also occur in the area; for more information contact Ralph Phenix, Nevada Division of Wildlife at (775) 688-1565. Note that all cacti, yuccas, and Christmas trees are protected by Nevada state law (NRS 527.060-.120), including taxa not tracked by this office.

Please note that our data are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations, and in most cases are not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Natural Heritage reports should never be regarded as final statements on the taxa or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for onsite surveys required for environmental assessments.

Thank you for checking with our program. Please contact us for additional information or further assistance.

Sincerely,


Eric S. Miskow
Biologist III/Data Manager

APPENDIX D

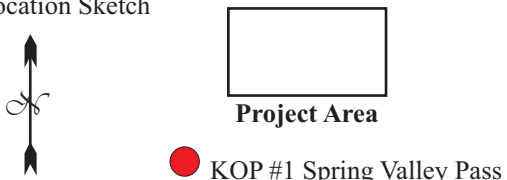
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date:	April 20, 2006
District:	Winnemucca District
Resource Area:	Winnemucca Field Office
Activity (program):	Mineral Exploration

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Spring Valley Project	4. Location: Spring Valley, Pershing Co., NV	Location Sketch 
2. Key Observation Point: KOP#1 from the top of Spring Valley Pass looking northeast	Sections 34 & 35 T29N, R34E & Sections 2 & 3 T28N, R34E.	
3. VRM Class: IV		

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

1. LAND/WATER		2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Foreground: Flat ridge with sloping hillside Middleground: Bowl shaped valley and hillside Background: Distant mountain range w/flat ridgeline	Foreground: Dry, dead sagebrush with sparse grasses Middleground: Low grasses with sparse juniper dots Background: Low vegetation and grasses	Foreground: county road Middleground: Powerline, roads Background: none
LINE	Linear road in foreground Horizontal, undulating, and angular lines in middleground with perpendicular power poles Undulating lines in background range tops	Sharp lines between burned and unburned vegetation in foreground Uniform to linear to patchy middle ground Horizontal to curved lines in background	Foreground: county road Middleground: Powerline, roads Background: none
COLOR	Light gray, grass green, dark green foreground Yellow to pink gray middleground Dark blue to pinkish	Light gray, grass green, dark green foreground Yellow to pink gray middleground Dark blue to pinkish	Gray road in foreground Light brown power poles in middleground None in background
TEXTURE	Very coarse textured foreground Medium textured middleground Fine textured background	Very fine to rough in foreground Coarse middleground Medium-grained to uniform background	Flat in foreground None in middleground None in background

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

1. LAND/WATER		2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Small roads or tracks
LINE	Drill rigs would be perpendicular or angular to ground in middleground.	Same	Horizontal to perpendicular roads in middleground
COLOR	Same	Same	Brown to gray
TEXTURE	Slightly patchy	Same	Slightly coarser grained than vegetation.

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☒ **SHORT TERM** ☐ **LONG TERM**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES												2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (Explain on reverse side)			
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)							
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None				
ELEMENTS	FORM			✓				✓					✓	3. Additional mitigating measures recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)			
	LINE			✓				✓					✓				
	COLOR			✓				✓					✓				
	TEXTURE			✓				✓					✓				
Evaluator's Name Opal Adams														Date April 20, 2006			

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

The VRM Class in this area is rated at IV. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic landscape elements. The entire Project can be observed from the KOP; however, when this analysis was completed there were several drill rigs conducting work under Notice-level activities. These rigs were hardly noticeable and took effort to determine where they were. Individual rigs and vehicles will be very noticeable from the county road that traverses the Project Area.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3).

No additional mitigation measures are recommended because this is a VRM Class IV area, which allows for major changes to the landscape.



Looking Northeast from Spring Valley Pass at the Project Area.